

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Science and
Education

Washington, D.C.
20250

September 11, 1981
No. 20

Interagency Research and Education Committee Plans Underway

Efforts to establish an Interagency Research and Education Committee of the Secretary's Policy and Coordination Council are well under way. Ernest Corley will serve as executive secretary of the committee.

Establishing this committee formalizes and expands on the monthly USDA science and education coordination meetings which I've been chairing for the last two years.

At a meeting later this month we will begin interagency consideration of such issues as identification of areas in need of special attention from an interagency perspective; policy and management recommendations in research and education; and government-industry coordination and cooperation on issues related to research, extension, and higher education.

USDA/USDI Research Coordinating Group Meets

Research administrators of natural resource management agencies for the Departments of Agriculture and Interior met August 19 to begin implementing a joint Memorandum of Understanding for coordination of research planning, implementation, and communicating research results.

Areas of common interest addressed at this meeting were: coordination of budget and management information systems, coordination of research efforts, and the potential for sharing certain facilities.

Robert Buckman, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Research, will chair this interdepartmental group.

Update of FY 1983 Budget

The FY 1983 budget process is moving along according to schedule. On August 6, Terry Kinney (ARS), Walter Thomas (CSRS), Mary Nell Greenwood (ES), Richard Farley (NAL), and I presented budget proposals for the Science and Education agencies to Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng.

I gave an overview of Science and Education budget priorities and the process we went through in developing them. The agency heads then emphasized key points of their proposals. Overall, I thought the session went very well.

The Department's decisions on our budget requests will be presented to OMB on September 15.

Lark Carter Named Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Lark P. Carter, Science and Education director for higher education, has been named dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

In his new post, Dr. Carter will head the nation's largest non-land-grant school of agriculture, with a full-time faculty of 110 and a student body of 3,550.

Dr. Carter has coordinated higher education issues in the food and agricultural sciences for us and has related the concerns of cooperating institutions and organizations to other USDA and Federal agencies, the Congress, and the public.

He has served on an IPA appointment with S&E from Montana State University, where he was Associate Dean of Agriculture and Assistant Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

I wish Dr. Carter well at Cal Poly. He has contributed greatly to a variety of higher education efforts while here.

National Pesticide Information System to Be Developed

A cooperative agreement is being negotiated with Purdue University to begin developing a national computerized pesticide information system to keep track of the many pesticide registrations, deregistrations, evaluations, and re-evaluations from State and Federal governments. No completely reliable tracking method now exists.

USDA is providing \$100,000 for the initial phases of the project.

The system should be fully implemented within three years. It will be accessible by users such as State departments of agriculture, industry, State researchers, Cooperative Extension Services, and Federal researchers. Farmers and producers will be able to use the system through the land-grant institutions.

Nancy N. Ragsdale, CSRS Pesticide Impact Assessment Coordinator, will work with Richard H. Collier of the the Indiana State Chemist Office at Purdue University on the project.

Lookout for Outlook

Mark your calendars for the 58th annual Agricultural Outlook Conference here November 2-5.

Over the past 57 years, the scope of the Outlook Conference has grown with the expanding responsibilities of the department. The earliest conferences were held strictly to give farmers new information on seed varieties and crop development.

Now, the conference has become USDA's single most important forum for the release and exchange of outlook information on a variety of topics, including world and U.S. agricultural production, utilization and trade; general economic conditions; farm income and credit; land and water issues; agricultural research and technology; human nutrition research; community and rural development; energy; transportation; agricultural policy; home economics and family living.

Borlaug Delivers Hendricks Lecture

I had the pleasure of introducing Norman E. Borlaug, 1970 Nobel laureate and father of the "Green Revolution," to the American Chemical Society Congress in New York last month when he delivered the first Sterling B. Hendricks Memorial Lecture.

In his talk, "Choice of Mankind," Dr. Borlaug described some of the factors involved in making the choice between adequate food with equitable distribution or continuing poverty and hunger for millions.

In describing America's accomplishments in agriculture, Dr. Borlaug said that in the 40-year period between 1940 and 1980, agricultural production of the 18 most important commercial crops increased 142 percent. This great leap in production was accomplished with an increase in land use of only 3 percent.

He noted that if we had tried to produce the 1980 crops using 1940 agricultural techniques, it would have required plowing up all of the land east of the Mississippi River, with the exception of Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Or, he said, it would have required denuding approximately 85 percent of our forest lands and turning them into crop production.

Furthermore, he pointed out, in 1940 approximately 15 percent of the work force was involved in agriculture. In 1980, that figure was only 2.5 percent. He said that all of this was primarily due to Federal- and State-supported agricultural research.

Dr. Borlaug also warned of the "population monster" and the need for control of population growth.

Dr. Borlaug, a great spokesman for science, looks to the sciences, particularly as they are expressed in and through agriculture, for the answers we must find before the end of this century in order to meet world food requirements.

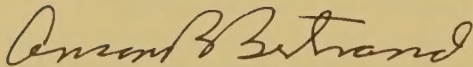
Atwater Lecture Presented

Joaquin Cravioto, an internationally known researcher in child nutrition, presented the thirteenth W. O. Atwater Memorial Lecture on August 20 before the XII International Congress of Nutrition in San Diego, Calif.

Speaking on "Nutrition, Stimulation, Mental Development and Learning," Dr. Cravioto said, "Among the many features of a child's environment, nutrition has been accepted almost as a prerequisite for optimal growth and development." Also important to children's development, according to Dr. Cravioto, is the stimulation they receive from their environment.

Dr. Cravioto has concentrated his research on the diagnosis and prevention of infantile malnutrition and the effects of nutrition, stimulation and environment on mental development, learning and behavior.

Over 2,500 persons representing 45 countries attended the meeting, which is the largest international congress devoted to nutritional concerns.



ANSON R. BERTRAND
Director, Science and Education